

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- A1*
1. (Currently Amended) A dense wavelength division multiplexer comprising:  
a dual fiber collimator including a lens and a capillary, the capillary for holding a plurality  
of fibers;  
a filter holder having an aperture therein; and  
a filter disposed between the dual fiber collimator and the filter holder, the filter having a  
first surface and a second surface opposite to the first surface, the first surface being covered with  
a filter coating, the filter being affixed to the filter holder by the second surface;  
wherein the first surface and the filter coating are free of epoxy.
  2. (Original) The dense wavelength division multiplexer of claim 1 wherein the lens is a  
graduated index of refraction (GRIN) lens or a C-lens.
  3. (Original) The dense wavelength division multiplexer of claim 1 wherein the filter is  
affixed to the filter holder using high temperature epoxy.
  4. (Original) The dense wavelength division multiplexer of claim 1 wherein the dual  
fiber collimator further includes a tube for holding and aligning the lens and the capillary.
  5. (Original) The dense wavelength division multiplexer of claim 4 further comprising a  
metal holder for holding the dual fiber collimator, the filter holder and the filter.
  6. (Original) The dense wavelength division multiplexer of claim 5 wherein the filter  
holder is soldered to the metal holder.

7. (Original) The dense wavelength division multiplexer of claim 1 further comprising:  
a single fiber collimator optically coupled to the filter, the filter holder disposed between  
the filter and the single fiber collimator, the single fiber collimator for holding an output fiber.

*Q1*  
8. (Original) The dense wavelength division multiplexer of claim 1 wherein the filter  
further includes an anti-reflective coating on the second surface of the filter.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for filtering an optical signal using a dense wavelength  
division multiplexer comprising:

- (a) providing an optical signal to a dual fiber collimator including a lens and a  
capillary, the capillary for holding a plurality of fibers;
- (b) filtering the optical signal to provide a filtered signal, the optical signal being filtered  
using a filter held in a filter holder having an aperture therein, the filter having a first surface and  
a second surface opposite to the first surface, the first surface being covered with a filter coating,  
the filter being affixed to the filter holder by the second surface;

wherein the first surface and the filter coating are free of epoxy.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the lens is a graduated index of refraction  
(GRIN) lens or a C-lens.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the dual fiber collimator further includes a  
tube for holding and aligning the lens and the capillary.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the dual fiber collimator, the filter holder

and the filter are held within a metal tube.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the filter is affixed to the filter holder using high temperature epoxy.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

(c) outputting the filtered signal using an output filter held by a single fiber collimator, the filter holder disposed between the filter and the single fiber collimator.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the filter is affixed to the filter holder using high temperature epoxy.

Please add claims:

16. (New) The dense wavelength division multiplexer of claim 1 wherein the filter is in contact with the filter holder only along the second surface.

*A<sup>2</sup>*

17. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein the filter is in contact with the filter holder only along the second surface.